



The Wall Fellows Journal

Special Interest Articles:

- Current Wall Fellows Project Update
- Spotlight on Wall Fellows Class of 2015
- Samantha Wright's Internship Experience
- Alumni Spotlight: Jason Repak

Opening Remarks

We would first like to congratulate the graduates of the Wall Fellows Class of 2013 and to thank them for their service as leaders and ambassadors of Coastal Carolina University. We are positive our newest alumni are destined for success wherever life takes them.

In this newsletter, we plan to continue our new tradition of profiling Wall Fellows. The founders of the *Wall Fellows Journal*, Samantha Wright and Tom Kelly, have given us a strong foundation upon which to build these communications.

Also in this newsletter, you will find information regarding the Freedom Readers fundraising event, remarks on our annual retreat, an introduction to the Wall Fellows Class of 2015, a spotlight on Samantha Wright's internship and a feature article on alumnus Jason Repak.

We hope you enjoy the second issue of the *Wall Fellows Journal*.

With Warm Regards,
Meghan Laffin '14 and Jordan Lauver '15



Wall Fellows Class of 2013

(From top left): Benjamin King, Shaneka Diggs, Samantha Wright, Travis Rogers, Miranda Rios and Jennifer Wan (From bottom left): Elizabeth Dagget, Thomas Kelly, Shana Ernst and Corey Lengyel



Wall Fellows Class of 2014

(From top left): Meghan Laffin, Zachary Burns and Naomi Dantzler, (From bottom left): Britany Higdon, Cora Panos and Dominique de Wit



Wall Fellows at Freedom Readers event at Rivertown Bistro

"Perhaps it planted a seed for yet another goal the young scholars could set: to not only be a college student, but also a Wall Fellow."

- Nancy Nelson

Freedom Readers Board Member

Class Project Wrap Up

The Freedom Readers second-annual fundraising event took place in April 2013, concluding the semester-long planning efforts of project leaders Miranda Rios and Ben King (Wall Fellows Class of 2013). A program that inspires dignity, empowerment and leadership through reading, the Freedom Readers Organization was chosen as this semester's community outreach project. The fundraising event was held on April 22 at the Rivertown Bistro in Conway. Guests enjoyed a three-course meal, silent auction and a reading by some of the organization's young scholars. Through this event, the Wall Fellows program raised more than \$5,300 for the organization. Freedom Readers board member Nancy Nelson expressed her gratitude by saying, "The Wall Fellows are to be commended for the business-like way they conducted themselves at the event... Perhaps it planted a seed for yet another goal the young scholars could set: to not only be a college student, but also a Wall Fellow." Project leader Miranda Rios said, "Throughout the process of planning the fundraiser, I realized how much actually goes on behind the scenes to prepare for such an event. It was especially rewarding to see the students in the Freedom Readers and how much they learn and value their experiences with the program."



Wall Fellows on Hackler Golf Course during annual retreat

Last month, Wall Fellows also hosted the annual retreat, which is one of our favorite events. The purpose of the retreat is to welcome the newest class through a mixture of learning and bonding activities. Project leaders Britany Higdon '14 and Zachary Burns '14 organized this year's retreat, which was held in the Kline Hospitality Suite overlooking Brooks Stadium. The weekend began at 10 a.m. on the Hackler Golf Course. All three classes gathered and made sincere efforts on the driving range, and some proved more successful than others. Golfing was followed by a seminar conducted by Mark Mitchell, Ph.D., who assisted the new class in preparing presentations they would give the following evening. The rest of the weekend featured competitive games as well as visits from Dean Byington, Associate Dean Michael Latta, Henry Jobe, Kathryn Hoyns and Wilson Lowery. "The retreat was truly a special event. I enjoyed not only getting to know my classmates, but also the entire Wall Fellows family," said Ashley Barteck '15.

Welcome! Wall Fellows Class of 2015



*From top left: Steven Vanden Heuvel and Chase Vickery
From bottom left: Jordan Lauver, Scareltt Trainor,
Ashley Barteck and Casey Burnett*

It is our pleasure to introduce the Class of 2015. Recruiting efforts began in early November, ultimately yielding a class of six outstanding individuals. Each submitted a resume, letter of recommendation, writing sample, official transcript and 12 essays. Two weeks after applications were submitted, interviews began. After a three-tier interview system, these six students were able to impress not only current Wall Fellows, but also CCU faculty and the Wall Fellows Executive Board. "For me, it was such an exciting moment to be seated in front of such a wonderful group of highly successful individuals," said class member Jordan Lauver. "I knew I was walking out of that boardroom a changed person." Overall, we are confident these students are the best and brightest of their class and we look forward to watching them achieve great things.

Internship Success



*Samantha Wright
Class of 2013*

Fulfilling her internship requirement, Wall Fellow marine science major Samantha Wright spent six months this year in California. Splitting her time between Catalina Island and Los Angeles, Sam was one of eight students selected to be part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience or SURE program. In her research, she sought to determine the diversity and abundance of zooplankton and to relate it to chlorophyll levels and moon phases. She also conducted extensive research on microorganisms living within coral polyps. At the end of her experience, she gave a formal presentation to faculty, donors and students at the University of Southern California. She is looking forward to continuing her education and is currently applying to Ph.D. programs at the University of Southern California, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Stanford.

Alumni News: Where Are They Now?



*Jason Repak
Class of 2007*

Alumnus Jason Repak, one of eight from the Wall Fellows Class of 2007, graduated from CCU with degrees in accounting and finance. Having completed a nine-month internship experience with Rolls Royce, Jason successfully secured a position with the company in Indianapolis. As a senior analyst, he managed all financial responsibilities for a \$160 million startup manufacturing facility, a job that eventually brought him to Richmond, Va. In May 2012, Jason received his MBA from the Robins School of Business at the University of Richmond. In search of personal growth and progression in his career, Jason founded TACK Holdings, where he works to create and implement a strategic vision for a financial services firm servicing customers in need of short-term liquidity solutions or long-term auto financing. This entrepreneurial endeavor proved to be a success. Jason now resides in Myrtle Beach with his wife, Brandy, and 2-year-old son, Cayden. In 2011, he was honored by CCU as the first winner of the Young Alumnus of the Year award, and he continues to take an active role on the Finance Advisory Board and Wall Fellow's Board of Advisers. "How can I not give back?" Jason said. "As a CCU alumnus, I want to see other alumni succeed, and I want to help in any way I can." We are sincerely appreciative of all that Jason Repak has done and is doing for the betterment of the Wall Fellows Program. We are thrilled he is back in the Myrtle Beach area, and are looking forward to working with him in the future.